

NATIONAL AIR INTELLIGENCE CENTER



RUSSIA EXHIBITS MILITARY SATELLITES

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Russia Exhibits Military Satellites

At the '93 International Aerospace Salon held in Moscow, Russia displayed for the first time a strategic reconnaissance satellite and an engineering model of a Global Navigation Satellite (Glonass).

The military satellite shown was the Cosmos 2207 (see figure 1), which had two large camera lenses for visible light and infrared imagery with resolutions of up to 4.9 meters. One of the lenses had a diameter of 30 centimeters, and the other was slightly larger.

Cosmos 2207 was launched on February 30¹, 1992 and was recovered after carrying out a two-week reconnaissance mission. The former Soviet Union launches about 20 of these satellites every year. This is a third-generation reconnaissance satellite which is still used in large-scale reconnaissance missions today.

The second satellite exhibited was the Glonass satellite (see figure 2). So far, Russia has launched 13 of these satellites. Eight of these satellites are in the same orbital plane, and the other five are in another orbital plane. Three more launches are planned.

(Reported by Wen En.)

¹ There were 29 days in February, 1992. Either the date or the month is incorrect.

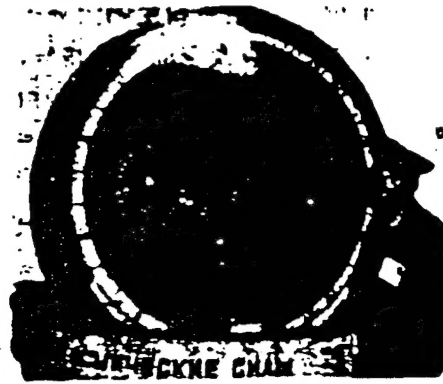


图 1 宇宙 2207 卫星

Figure 1 Cosmos 2207 Satellite

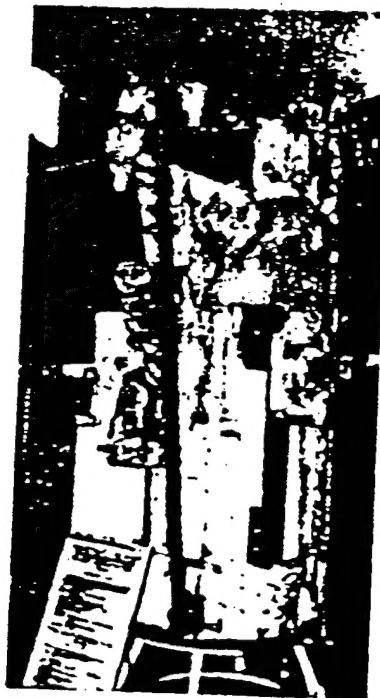


图 2 全球导航星

Figure 2 Glonass Satellite

Russia Develops a Television-assisted Docking System for Mir

Russia has recently developed a television-assisted docking system for remote control of linking up the Progress space vehicle with the Mir-1 space station. Ground control personnel use the real-time images provided by the television camera on the Progress space vehicle to control the intersection and docking of the space vehicle and the space station. Control personnel sitting at their ground control consoles at the TSUP flight center near Moscow can fly the space vehicle towards the space station as if sitting in the Soyuz space vehicle.

The Progress usually uses the Kurs intersection and docking system for automatic docking with the space station. During docking, the cosmonauts on board the space station monitor the arrival and docking of the Progress. After the newly developed television-assisted docking system is in service, even if there is no one on board the space station, or when the Kurs system is not working, the Progress can still fly towards the space station and complete docking with it.

This is a new move by Russia in developing its manned aerospace vehicles and improving its space stations.

(Reported by Wen En.)

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